

Mary's Place, A Center for Grieving Children & Families

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) and Accessibility Statement

At Mary's Place, we are dedicated to creating a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for all children, families, and community members coping with the loss of a loved one. We believe everyone deserves compassionate support, and we celebrate diversity in all its forms, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, and neurodiversity.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Mary's Place exists solely to support grieving children and families from all walks of life who have experienced a loss through death. Rooted in a peer support model; not clinical care- our mission centers on compassion, inclusivity, and the power of connection. We aim to ensure every individual feels heard, supported, and understood as they navigate their unique grief journey.

Our Peer Support Model

The heart of our program is **peer connection**. Participants benefit not only from receiving support but also from offering understanding to others who share similar experiences. This exchange of empathy and shared stories is what makes our groups so meaningful.

Our peer groups are organized by age and life experience to foster safe, relevant, and supportive connections:

- **Children (ages 3–12):** grieving the death of a parent, guardian, or sibling
- **Teens (ages 13–18):** grieving the death of a parent, guardian, sibling, or other significant person
- **Young adults (ages 19–29):** grieving the death of a parent, guardian, sibling, or other significant person
- **Young widows and widowers:** grieving the death of a spouse or life partner

Our groups are designed for children, teens, young adults, and young widows/widowers to connect with peers who share similar experiences. To keep groups safe, supportive, and confidential, only participants attend sessions. While guests do not join the groups, families are welcome to wait on site, walk in together, or create a plan that feels comfortable for arrival. Children may also wait at the center if they are supervised by an adult, using our designated space provided they are not disruptive to the group in session. This balance allows participants to feel both supported and respected within their group.

All participants must complete the pre-enrollment process for their intended group to be eligible for participation. This individualized and thoughtful process assists us in giving each child and family a very warm and personalized experience to meet their unique needs.

Participation and Accessibility

To keep groups supportive and focused, participants should be able to engage with peers and manage their own personal care needs during groups. When a group setting may not be the best fit, we work with families to explore accommodations or connect them with other meaningful supports.

Our center is equipped with a handicap-accessible entrance ramp and restroom facilities, and we are committed to ongoing improvements that ensure accessibility for all.

Our Commitment

While we do not provide clinical services, our peer support model is grounded in empathy, connection, and shared experience. We are committed to honoring each person's grief process and ensuring that every participant, regardless of background or ability, feels welcome, heard, and supported. We deeply value and care for all people.

For questions, support, or to discuss accommodations, please contact us at **860-688-9621**.